

The current issue of the Westchester Town Center BID Newsletter is attached. Please see the article about the City's proposed legalization of "street vending" in our community.

We are sending the newsletter now so that our readers have an opportunity to voice their preferences with respect to the proposed City action that is being supported by Councilman Mike Bonin. Think of taco carts, fruit vendors, and cheap merchandise together with all of the litter, sidewalk mess, and clutter caused by vendors that don't pay rent, taxes, or fees as the brick and mortar stores they are competing against do. The Westchester Town Center BID has requested our Councilman to not force street vending on the community of Westchester and to require property owner approval before any vendor could set up shop in front of their property. If some neighborhoods want it fine, but we don't think Westchester is one of those places. The Neighborhood Council and Chamber of Commerce have agreed. How fair is it to require property owners to repair their sidewalks but not allow them to have a voice in whether or not someone can set up a business there?

The City Council is apparently going to vote on this item on January 18. Let Councilman Bonin know your thoughts at [310-568-8772](tel:310-568-8772).

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Mike

Thank you for your response to our email. If we have mischaracterized your position we apologize and will correct the record. It seems that the question is: "Will street vending be forced onto Westchester by City Council action?" "How 'easy and simple' will a neighborhood 'opt-out' be? Or will it be a very cumbersome, difficult "police power-based" exclusion?" (We understand the drafters' intention of the proposed language to be that 'opt-out' not be easy and simple.) Will property owner permission be required before street vending is approved at a specific location?" The Council District Offices have historically prevailed in matters of local planning, so your support of Westchester's strong position should be able to protect us. Please understand that what you call a "dystopian portrait" is our community's real fear.

We have requested a personal meeting to discuss these questions further.

We value highly your on-going support and the partnership we have formed for the mutual benefit of all. We look forward to a long successful future together.